

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5085
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000
MEETING OF INDO-FRANCE JOINT COMMISSION
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has urged the commercial representatives in different Indian missions to focus on their role as magnets to attract foreign investment and facilitate technology tie ups;
- (b) if so, whether he had also attended a meeting with Indian delegation including FICCI of the Indo-France Joint Commission which was held in Paris;
- (c) if so, the issues discussed at the meetings; and
- (d) the extent to which the France has agreed to provide help and assistance to India?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) A meeting of Commercial Representatives from Indian Missions/Posts in Frankfurt, Berlin, Berne, Brussels, Rome, London and Budapest was organized in London on 20th May, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Minister of Commerce and Industry. Commercial Representatives were urged to focus on promoting foreign investments and as facilitators of technology tie-ups, besides their traditional role as trade promoters. The issues discussed in this meeting included continuous monitoring and analysing of emerging trade trends, use of trade defence measures by E.U. countries against Indian products, trade inhibiting non-tariff barriers and other measures adversely affecting India's exports to Europe, closer interaction and effective coordination between Government and industry etc.

The 10th Session of Indo-French Joint Committee was held in Paris on 23rd May, 2000 under the Co-Chairmanship of the Commerce Ministers of the two countries. At the inaugural session of the Joint Committee, the Chief Executive Officers of leading Indian and French companies participated. In this meeting, the two sides discussed ways and means of stepping up bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, small and medium enterprises, mines, posts and telecom, energy, agriculture, infrastructure, information technology, biotechnology, consultancy etc. Both sides also discussed and agreed to facilitate finalisation of project related preparatory work and implementation of projects under bilateral financial cooperation.